

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on September 23, 2003. Claims 1, 7, 11, 18, 25 and 39 are amended, claim 6 is canceled, and claims 42-48 are added; as a result, claims 1-5 and 7-48 are now pending in this application.

Claim 6 was cancelled and claim 7 was amended in part due to the amendment to claim 1. Claim 11 was amended to correct a typographical error.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-41 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito et al., (U.S. 5,793,631).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further clarify that the device is adapted to recognize a user-requested prompt for voice guidance. Applicant is unable to find, among other things, in the cited portions of Ito et al. an electronic navigational aid device with voice guidance, comprising a processor and memory to communicate with the processor where the memory is adapted to store cartographic data and a route to a desired destination, where the device is adapted to process travel along the route, to recognize when the device is approaching a decision point in the route, to provide voice guidance for the decision point and to recognize a user-requested prompt for voice guidance, as recited in the claim. Claims 2-5 and 7-12 depend on amended independent claim 1, and are believed to be patentable at least for the reasons provided with respect to claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the initial voice guidance, the advance voice guidance and the confirmation voice guidance provide different prompts to provide specific guidance when the decision point is within the initial guidance range, within the advance guidance range, and within the confirmation voice guidance range.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection with respect to independent claim 13, as originally filed. Applicant is unable to find, among other things in the cited portions of Ito et al., a navigation system comprising a mass data storage adapted to store navigation data from which a route can be determined, a server adapted to communicate with the mass data storage, and a navigation device adapted to communicate with and retrieve navigation data from the server via a communication channel, where the system is adapted to process travel along the route,

recognize when the device is approaching a decision point in the route, and provide voice guidance for the decision point, as recited in originally-filed claim 13.

Claims 14-24 depend on amended independent claim 13, and are believed to be patentable at least for the reasons provided with respect to claim 13. For example, Applicant is unable to find, among other things in the cited portion of Ito et al., a showing of a system adapted to recognize when the device is within an initial guidance range from a previous decision point and perform a corresponding initial voice guidance for the approaching decision point, as recited claim 14; recognize when the device is within an advance guidance range, as recited in claim 14, recognize when the device is within a confirmation guidance range, as recited in claim 16; and recognize a user-requested prompt for voice guidance, as recited in claim 17. Claim 18 has been amended to further clarify that the initial voice guidance, the advance voice guidance and the confirmation voice guidance provide different prompts to provide specific guidance when the decision point is within the initial guidance range, within the advance guidance range, and within the confirmation voice guidance range. Applicant is unable to find, among other things in the cited portion of Ito et al., a showing of a system adapted to provide the initial, advance and confirmation voice guidance, as recited in claim 18.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection with respect to independent claim 25, as originally filed. Applicant is unable to find, among other things in the cited portions of Ito et al., a method for negotiating decision points using a navigation device comprising determining a current speed and a current position of the navigation device, determining whether the navigation device is approaching a decision point in the route, and providing voice guidance to navigate the decision point, as recited in originally-filed claim 25. Claim 25 has been amended to further clarify that timing of the voice guidance is based on the current travel speed and the current position. Applicant is unable to find, among other things in the cited portions of Ito et al., a method that times voice guidance based on the current travel speed and the current position.

Claims 26-41 depend on amended independent claim 25, and are believed to be patentable at least for the reasons provided with respect to claim 25. For example, Applicant is unable to find, among other things in Ito et al., a method comprising determining an average speed as recited in claims 27-31; determining an initial voice guidance range and providing a corresponding initial voice guidance as recited in claim 32, determining an advance voice

guidance range as recited in claim 33, and determining a confirmation voice guidance range as recited in claim 34. Furthermore, Applicant is unable to find, among other things in Ito et al., a method comprising providing initial voice guidance, as recited in claim 35; providing an advance voice guidance, as recited in claim 36; and providing a confirmation voice guidance, as recited in claim 37.

New Claims 42-48

New independent claim 42 includes language recited in originally-filed claims 1 and 7, and further clarifies that the initial voice guidance the advance voice guidance and the confirmation voice guidance provide different prompts. New independent claim 43 includes language recited in originally-filed claims 1 and 8. New dependent claim 44 depends on claim 43, and corresponds to originally-filed claim 9 which depends on claim 8. New independent claim 45 includes language recited in originally-filed claims 25 and 38. New independent claim 46 includes language recited in originally-filed claims 25 and 39, and further clarifies that providing an initial voice guidance, an advance voice guidance, and a confirmation voice guidance provide different specific guidance when the decision point is within an initial guidance range, within an advance guidance range, and within a confirmation voice guidance range. New independent claim 47 includes language recited in originally-filed claims 25 and 40. New dependent claim 48 depends on claim 47, and corresponds to originally-filed claim 41 which depends on claim 40. Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 42-48 are not shown or fairly suggested by Ito et al..

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6960 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


Respectfully submitted,

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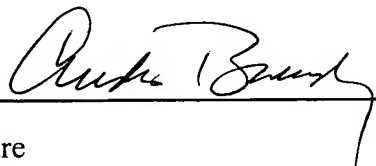
Date 1-22-04

By 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 22 day of January, 2004.

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